

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on November 2, 2006.

Claims 1-33 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-7, 9-20, 22-27 and 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for anticipation by US 20020032659 A1 Waters; System and Method for Obtaining and Developing Technology for Market. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Waters, lacks at least one element of each claim, so it cannot serve to anticipate the claims.

Waters lacks a classification module for classifying inventions into predetermined classes. The Office Action references paragraph 20 as teaching this element. This is respectfully traversed. Paragraph 20 reads in part: The remaining database information of accepted ideas is made accessible to review boards of preselected experts routed automatically to relevant review boards representing the industries most likely to have interest in the idea. In this regard, an extremely broad view of the invention is adopted so as to allow a wide range of industry boards to consider applications the invention may have in their field of specialty. The above language describes a process different than classifying the inventions into predetermined classes. It seems to avoid such classification in order to obtain review from a broad spectrum of industries. Independent claims 11, 22, 29 and 31 also categorize inventions. Again, the paragraph referenced in the Office Action does not describe such categorization. The remaining claims depend from such independent claims and are believed patentable for at least the same reasons. With regard to claim 14, the Office Action indicates that Waters teaches anonymity between users in Paragraph 17. This is respectfully traversed. Paragraph 17 describes confidentiality between users, not anonymity. Thus, a prima facie case of anticipation has not been established with respect to claim 14, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 8, 21, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of Waters. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Waters, lacks at least one element of each claim

as described above, so the above claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as the claims from which they depend.

Claims 8, 21, and 28 refer to translating descriptions of inventions to desired languages. The Office Action indicates that Waters fails to teach translating information into the desired languages. It then goes on to state that it would have been obvious to one of skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine this limitation with Waters so as to not limit the type or nationality of customers who may be interested in funding an invention. No reference describing such knowledge is provided. Thus, knowledge of one of average skill in the art has not been established and a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

New claims 32 and 33 have been added. They are similar to claims 1 and 22 with the addition of the anonymity element of claim 14.

Applicant reserves the right to separately argue additional distinctions at a later date, and hereby traverses any official notice or inherency arguments that may have been made.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants attorney (612) 373-6972 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

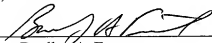
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Date 4-30-2007

By


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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 30th day of April 2007.

PATRICIA A. HULTMAN

Name


Signature